



# Environmental Bulletin

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*from the Savannah River Site*

## **Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Available for the Safeguards and Security Upgrades for Storage of Plutonium Materials at SRS**

The purpose of the proposed action is to enhance the safe and secure storage of plutonium-bearing materials at SRS to meet the enhanced terrorist threat. This effort would require numerous physical modifications to the K-Area facilities, and land-clearing activities in both K Area and the Advanced Tactical Training Area (ATTA) Range. The general activities associated with the proposed action are: (1) physical safeguard and security enhancements of storage and training facilities, (2) interim and long-term surveillance and material packaging capabilities to ensure compliance with DOE Standard 3013, Stabilization, Packaging and Storage of Plutonium-Bearing Materials, and (3) expanded storage capability within K Area to support F Area de-inventory and surveillance activities. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Department of Energy (DOE) has evaluated the environmental impacts associated with these actions in a draft EA entitled *Safeguards and Security Upgrades for Storage of Plutonium Materials at the Savannah River Site* (DOE/EA-1538). The draft EA is being issued for public comment for a period of 30 days.

DOE is proposing that a building in F Area be de-inventoried and deactivated, and that the material be placed in K Area, which would dramatically reduce the operational and security costs associated with maintaining two Category 1 storage facilities. De-inventory of special nuclear material from the F-Area facility; interim surveillance capability in K area (KIS) project; the Container Surveillance and Storage Capability project; physical security upgrades in K Area; and modifications at the ATTA Range are all part of the security upgrades evaluated in the EA. The ATTA Range has provided a range area for protective force training since the early 1980's. DOE plans to expand this range to allow for continuation of the current training activities while at the same time incorporating new training requirements.

The public comment period for this draft EA will be open until December 6, 2005. Any comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. An electronic copy of the draft EA may be viewed by directing your browser to <http://www.srs.gov/general/pubs/pubs.htm>.

Comments and requests for hard copies of the draft EA should be sent to:

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## Current NEPA Actions Affecting SRS

- *Disposition of Scrap Metals Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) (DOE/EIS-0327)*

This PEIS will evaluate alternatives for disposition of DOE scrap metals that may have been in radiological areas. The disposition options to be analyzed include continuation of the suspension on unrestricted release of metals for recycling, unrestricted release of scrap metals for recycling, and disposal. The notice of intent (NOI) for this PEIS was issued on July 12, 2001. A public scoping meeting was held on July 31, 2001, in North Augusta, South Carolina. The draft PEIS has not been issued and the schedule is uncertain.

- *Supplemental PEIS on Stockpile Stewardship and Management for a Modern Pit Facility (DOE/EIS-0236-S2)*

This PEIS will evaluate alternative sites (Los Alamos National Laboratory, Nevada Test Site, Pantex Plant, Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, and Savannah River Site) for a Modern Pit Facility, to provide the capability to manufacture plutonium pits for the United States nuclear weapons stockpile. This PEIS will be followed by a site-specific EIS to address the impacts of construction and operation of the Modern Pit Facility at the selected site. The NOI for this PEIS was issued on September 23, 2002. A local public scoping meeting was held on October 29, 2002, in North Augusta, SC. Information regarding the draft PEIS can be found at 68 FR 33487, June 4, 2003. The draft PEIS may be viewed electronically at [www.mpfais.com](http://www.mpfais.com). The final supplemental PEIS has been delayed due to Congressional concerns about timing and scope of project.

- *Safeguards and Security Upgrades for Storage of Plutonium Materials at SRS (DOE/EA-1538)*

DOE has prepared an EA to analyze the potential environmental consequences of proposed safeguards and security upgrades for storage of plutonium materials and alternatives. The draft EA is available for review. (see related article on cover page)

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## TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION (TA) REQUEST TO SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL FOR SAMPLING AND TREATMENT OF POTENTIALLY SHOCK SENSITIVE MATERIAL

On October 6, 2005, a one liter amber bottle suspected to be p-Dioxane was discovered in a drum of waste during routine sampling activities in building 645-4N of the permitted hazardous waste storage facility at the Savannah River Site (SRS). SRS is requesting a 30-day Temporary Authorization (TA) pursuant to South Carolina Hazardous Waste Management (SCHWMR) R.61-79.270.42(e) to perform the movement of potentially shock sensitive container/s to a subcontracted high hazard team's trailer, sample the contents of the container/s and subsequent treatment by deactivation and/or neutralization. Following the sampling and any treatment the containers will be returned to a proper storage container within the permitted storage building.

Address all inquiries to:

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Notice of Availability  
United States Department of Energy  
Savannah River Operations Office  
Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD)  
for  
TNX Area Operable Unit Record of Decision (ROD)

The United States Department of Energy, the lead agency for the Savannah River Site, will release an ESD on November 7, 2005, with concurrence by the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV (US-EPA) and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to announce changes in the remedial decision selected for the TNX Operable Unit. The ESD will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below.

The purpose of this ESD is to document Post-ROD changes to the current interim action pump-and-treat system selected for the TNX Groundwater. The significant differences of the modified remedy from the current remedy are (1) Addition excavation of potential Principal Threat Source Material (PTSM) in soil adjacent to selected sumps (neutralization sump, stainless steel sump in the tank gallery, and the centrifuge sump at 678-T, and the #4 and #8 sump at 677-T) and a small area of contamination on the western exterior of 678-T; and (2) Modification of the remedial goal for PTSM for radium and thorium.

The SRS is required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act to publish an ESD whenever there is a significant change to a component of the remedy identified in the ROD. The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan requires the lead agency to provide an explanation of the differences and to make the information available to the public in the Administrative Record and information repository. This ESD is available for public review during normal business hours at the following information repositories:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and
- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Interim ROD are available at the following:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and
- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

Any comments or questions may be directed to:

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## The SRS Environmental Bulletin

For more information on this or other  
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at SRS, please contact:

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